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- Unofficial Translation -

Cabinet Members Working Guidelines

At the first Cabinet Meeting on 23 December 2008, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva gave the following working guidelines to the new Cabinet:

1. To follow His Majesty the King's advice graciously granted to the Cabinet during the royal oath-taking ceremony, especially with regard to the emphasis placed on administering state affairs with propriety and for the happiness and well-being of the people.
2. Cabinet Members must strictly uphold the principle of honesty in performing their duties and ensure that their subordinates follow suit.
3. The Government policy to be delivered in Parliament is to be taken as the collective goal of each Cabinet Member. Therefore, each ministry's policy direction and its minister's public opinions must correspond with Government policy so as to avoid causing confusion.
4. Due to present challenges, Cabinet Members must perform their duties with the highest standards of professionalism. Ministries will be required to cooperate with one another to resolve problems and, therefore, should set aside all political differences. Furthermore, crisis resolution must be quick and expedited through various mechanisms and committees. It is, therefore, requested that Cabinet Members attach importance to attending committee meetings and, only when necessary, designate representatives at the decision-making level who can be accountable on their behalf.
5. As parliamentary duty is one of the main obligations of the Cabinet, Ministers should attach importance to parliamentary matters, particularly to responding to questions on related matters raised in Parliament every Thursday in person.
6. As public figures, Cabinet Members are in the public eye. Therefore, they should be mindful and cautious of both their personal conduct and in carrying out their duties by taking into consideration public sentiments.
7. Cabinet Members are to attach importance to encouraging public participation, as it is one important factor affecting the success of Government policy implementation.
8. Within a democratic system and as governmental executives responsible for the safeguarding of national interests, Cabinet Members are subject to monitoring of their work by the public. Therefore, being mindful that one of the Government's goals is to promote national reconciliation, Cabinet Members should be prepared for public scrutiny and respond with tolerance and in a constructive manner in order to support efforts to achieve that goal.
9. Political responsibility has higher standards than legal responsibility. All Cabinet Members should be aware of this and should, therefore, not be too attached to their positions and should always be mindful that public interests supersede their own and those of the Cabinet.